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Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/65/150.
** The information contained in the addendum was received after the submission of the main report.

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II. Replies received from Member States

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[21 June 2010]

Cuba reiterates its total repudiation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of who commits them, against whom or where they take place, irrespective of the motives, including those acts, methods and practices in which a State may be directly or indirectly involved.

All terrorist acts and actions affect the life, health, property and safety of innocent people, violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, jeopardize the functioning and stability of national institutions, cause serious damage to the production infrastructure and economic activity of States and further destabilize the international situation by creating new hotbeds of tension and, on occasion, triggering international conflicts.

For more than 50 years, Cuba has been a victim of State terrorism aimed at destroying the political and social order freely chosen by the Cuban people in the full exercise of their right to self-determination. In these attempts, the territory of the United States of America has been constantly and systematically used to finance and organize different types of terrorist acts against Cuba and to train the perpetrators of those acts.

Weapons of mass destruction have never been an element of our national defence strategy and Cuba does not possess, nor has it any intention of possessing, such weapons.

In order to comply fully with its international obligations, Cuba has an effective, predictable and reliable system for the national implementation of international conventions such as the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

Cuba is a party to the 13 existing international conventions and protocols on terrorism, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Accession to these international instruments reflects Cuba's commitment to counter-terrorism and clearly demonstrates our country's commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in September 2006.

Participation in these international treaties, together with the Cuban State's resolute political will in its fight against terrorism and for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, has contributed to the adoption and implementation of national regulations by our legislative bodies and the relevant government institutions, enabling us to honour our international commitments.

On several occasions, the Government of the Republic of Cuba has made use of public forums to provide information about the existence of that legislation and of the relevant national bodies. Attention is drawn to the informational documents

submitted by Cuba within the framework of the Biological and the Chemical Weapons Conventions and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or the reports required pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), all of which can be easily accessed via the website of the United Nations.

Cuba once again denounces the placement, against the will of the Cuban people and Government, of a United States naval base on the Cuban territory of Guantánamo, over which portion of its national territory the Cuban State does not exercise its rightful jurisdiction. Cuba does not know whether the United States has installed, possesses, maintains or intends to install materials or weapons of mass destruction in that illegally occupied territory. Cuba therefore assumes no responsibility with regard to that territory for the purposes of the international conventions.

The atomic bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the Government of the United States of America, an act of terror and genocide, provide a clear example of the catastrophic consequences that such weapons can cause to humanity. Today, the use of such bombs or other types of weapons of mass destruction in acts of terrorism would have devastating effects owing to the immense destructive power that these weapons have achieved.

The Governments of the United States of America and of other nuclear Powers are opposed to immediate negotiations on the total elimination of nuclear weapons and their prohibition. They are unwilling to establish a specific time frame for attaining these goals or to undertake negotiations for a convention that results in their elimination and prohibition. The outcome of the Eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT corroborated this and made quite clear there is still a great distance between the rhetoric and the good intentions repeated over and over by some nuclear-weapons States, and the commitments and steps they are really willing to take.

The Plan of Action on Nuclear Disarmament adopted contains positive elements, but it is limited and insufficient. The modest progress achieved in the recent Review Conference must act as an incentive to continue working in all possible forums in favour of nuclear disarmament and the implementation of all NPT provisions.

Cuba is ready to begin immediately negotiations for the adoption of a convention on nuclear disarmament and has made its position known both in its national capacity and as a party to declarations and documents issued by the Nongned Movement or, in the context of the Conference on Disarmament, the Group of 21.

The fact that 50 per cent of the declared chemical weapons remain to be destroyed is a cause for concern. States which have declared that they possess chemical weapons should ensure full compliance with their commitment to destroy their arsenals before the deadline set in the final extension as 29 April 2012. Compliance with this obligation is essential in order to achieve the objectives and purposes of the Chemical Weapons Convention and would make a significant contribution to international efforts to ensure that these weapons of mass destruction do not fall into the hands of terrorists.

The sole truly effective way to eliminate the danger of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists is their total elimination and prohibition. As long as such weapons exist, no measure can be sufficiently adequate or effective to prevent the occurrence of acts of terrorism with weapons of mass destruction.

Genuine international cooperation, without discrimination of any type and based on a framework of international legitimacy and full respect for the principles of international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations is an effective tool to prevent and combat all acts of terrorism.

India

[Original: English]
[27 August 2010]

1. General Assembly resolution 64/38, entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction", highlights the concerns of the international community and calls upon all Member States to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. It underlines that the international response to this threat needs to be made at the national multilateral and global levels. India expresses satisfaction that this resolution was adopted by the Assembly without a vote, and supports the continued implementation of this resolution.

2. The international community and States Members of the United Nations in their national capacity have taken a number of measures to address the threat posed to global security by terrorists' acquiring weapons of mass destruction. India has a well-established, effective and law-based export control system with regard to sensitive materials and technologies. India also supports enhanced international cooperation, including through the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and other relevant forums, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. At the Nuclear Security Summit, held in Washington, D.C., on 12 and 13 April 2010, India announced the setting up of a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, to be developed in cooperation with IAEA and other foreign partners.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[21 July 2010]

Lebanon hereby affirms the following:

- It does not possess weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and abides by United Nations resolutions that are designed to prevent terrorists from using or acquiring such weapons.
- Lebanon has established laws and legislation that regulate the cross-border export, transit and transfer of any type of weapon and prohibit the arms trade.

The legislation also provides, as necessary, for the legal prosecution of terrorists. Lebanese law does not permit the harbouring of terrorists.

- Lebanon supports the strengthening of international cooperation and participates in international counter-terrorism efforts. It has put in place strict deterrent legislation concerning the surveillance and prosecution of terrorists.
- Lebanon is combating the proliferation of WMD and is also working to curb armament, with a view to establishing a WMD-free zone in the Middle East. Moreover, Lebanon denies the legitimacy of the threat or use of such weapons.
- Lebanon condemns all forms of terrorism and participates in concerted and collective international counter-terrorism efforts.
- Lebanon expresses grave concern at Israel's non-compliance with international legitimacy, which poses a threat to all countries in the region.

Poland

[Original: English]
[25 June 2010]

1. Poland remains a strong supporter of all international efforts aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction (WMD). As a State party to all disarmament and non-proliferation treaties (including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention) and a participant in relevant export control regimes (including the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group and the Nuclear Suppliers Group) and in new forms of international non-proliferation cooperation (including the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Group of Eight Global Partnership and the Proliferation Security Initiative), Poland pays special attention to the issues related to the WMD counter-terrorism measures discussed at these forums and attaches great importance to the prompt and universal implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

2. Recently, Poland ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Therefore, Poland is a State party to all international counter-terrorism treaties.

3. Poland welcomes the results of the Nuclear Security Summit, held in Washington, D.C., on 12 and 13 April 2010. During that meeting, Poland expressed its full support for measures aimed at curbing nuclear terrorism and called for the strengthening of all nuclear-related stockpiles, including all nuclear (strategic and substrategic) weapons stockpiles, so as to ensure that such weapons will not fall into the hands of terrorists.

4. At the national level, the core of Poland's governmental counter-terrorism structure is the Counter-Terrorist Centre, established in 2008. Its main responsibility is to coordinate preventive actions and collect information and data on suspicious terrorist activity that might affect the territory of Poland and Polish citizens. With regard to weapons of mass destruction and counter-terrorism, the Centre provides a platform for cooperation among the various law enforcement services of Poland. It organizes and hosts related exercises aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and cooperates in this sphere with foreign partners.

5. The issue of counter-terrorism is also addressed by the Interministerial Working Group for Combating Terrorism, an auxiliary body of the Council of Ministers. Recently, one of its main tasks was to develop appropriate services for the 2012 European Football Championship, also in the wide sphere of counter-terrorism measures, which includes response to potential acts of terrorism involving the use of weapons of mass destruction.

III. Replies received from international organizations

A. United Nations system

World Health Organization

[Original: English]
[19 July 2010]

First and foremost, the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) is public health. The 2005 revision of the International Health Regulations (IHR (2005)) constitutes the legal and operational framework of WHO for activities regarding the prevention and control of the international spread of diseases (including diseases with chemical and radionuclear sources, as well as biological). The WHO *World Health Report 2007: A Safer Future: Global Public Health in the 21st Century* focused on the interface of health and security. WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan emphasized the following points in the foreword: "Given today's universal vulnerability to [internationally significant health and security] threats, better security calls for global solidarity ... As the determinants and consequences of health emergencies have become broader, so has the range of players with a stake in the security agenda ... successful implementation of IHR (2005) serves the interests of politicians and business leaders as well as the health, trade and tourism sectors." WHO is undertaking a number of activities to strengthen global and national public health preparedness and response to all public health emergencies of international concern, regardless of their origin or source. WHO is committed to a programme of national capacity-building based on "core competencies" for the detection of and response to public health risks and events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern, so that countries can meet the requirements of IHR (2005). Activities are being implemented to support Member States' public health functions as provided by IHR (2005).

Additionally, Word Health Assembly resolutions 54.14 and 55.16 mandate WHO to play a key part in the international response to the accidental or deliberate use of biological and chemical agents or radionuclear materials that affect health, and to support Member States in prioritizing surveillance, networking and responses in this area. They also request WHO to adopt mechanisms for supporting States and strengthening the international response accordingly.

The following are descriptions of activities that have a direct or indirect impact on preparedness and response to malevolent events involving the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction. The activities are carried out across a number of departments, including: Global Alert and Response, Food Safety, International Health Regulations, and Public Health and Environment.

Activity: Enhancing international surveillance of communicable disease and of chemical, radiological and foodborne disease incidents

At the international level, a system of alert and response operations implemented 24 hours a day, seven days a week, detects international public health events and performs risk assessments on the public health implications of those events. The system is consistently tested, both through annual exercises and during real events, in order to optimize operational performance and the effectiveness of collaboration with international partners.

Activity: Enhancing international capacity for response to communicable disease, outbreaks and chemical, radiological and foodborne disease incidents

WHO mobilizes international networks of technical partners to assist countries in responding to public health events, a system activated at the request of countries. Among those specialized networks are GOARN (the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network); ChemiNet, for alert and response to chemical events; INFOSAN (the International Food Safety Authorities Network), for alert and response involving food-related events; REMPAN (the Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance Network); and BioDoseNet (global network for biodosimetry), for radionuclear emergencies. WHO is strengthening its stockpiles of vaccines and treatments for disease-specific risks such as smallpox, and is exploring the possibility of a new global stockpile for radionuclear and chemical emergencies.

Activity: Public health and security interface

WHO is establishing procedures for guiding public health responses to potential deliberate events and for addressing health and security concerns at mass gatherings. WHO has developed and refined internal standard operating procedures for responding to intentionally caused outbreaks and emergencies.

Activity: Collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs on the update of the Secretary-General's mechanism for investigating the alleged use of chemical, biological and toxin weapons

The Director-General of WHO, Dr. Margaret Chan, agreed to provide technical support for the updating of the roster of experts used by the mechanism, the provision of equipment and support for the training of experts, and the updating and refinement of the relevant technical manuals and procedures.

Activity: Active partnership with the States parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and with the Implementation Support Unit

WHO is a regular contributor and observer at Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention expert and State party intersessional and Review Conference meetings.

Activity: Establishment of standards and training on laboratory biosafety and biosecurity

Standards and training are being developed and applied in WHO regions to encourage the safe use, transport and storage of biological materials, minimizing the risk of their diversion for malicious use. In addition, WHO is working in

collaboration with the European Union and other partners to strengthen biorisk management and laboratory practices to provide protection against biological risks.

Activity: Responsible life sciences research for global health security

WHO is also exploring the public health issues surrounding the potential risks posed by the accidental or deliberate misuse of life sciences research. It has held a meeting of experts to define strategies for minimizing the potential risks and is developing guidance and a self-assessment questionnaire on responsible life sciences research.

Activity: Management of smallpox stockpiles

In accordance with a series of World Health Assembly resolutions, WHO has also established technical norms for maintaining the world's remaining samples of smallpox; has conducted regular visits to the remaining two repositories of live variola virus to examine biosafety arrangements; and has directed, in collaboration with the international community, the research agenda for the smallpox virus. In addition, WHO has developed strategies for the mobilization of stockpiled smallpox vaccine (which WHO maintains).

Activity: National capacity-building

At the national level, WHO has prepared guidance to assist countries in assessing their readiness to deal with the public health consequences of a deliberately caused incident involving chemical, biological and radiological agents or materials. Guidelines for the establishment and strengthening of prevention and response systems to address the deliberate contamination of food have also been made available to Member States. In addition, a manual for the public health management of chemical incidents has been developed. These guidelines are supported by a large number of technical documents and informative material intended to assist Member States in strengthening all public health capacities related to incidents and emergencies.

The development of technical reference tools to be used for the building of expertise, education and training is another important component of the organization's work. Notably, WHO contributed to the multiagency product *TMT Handbook: Triage, Monitoring and Treatment*, a handbook for management of the public in the event of the malevolent use of radiation.

Activity: Targeted collaboration with external partners

WHO participates in formal mechanisms for collaboration (for example, with the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organization for Animal Health, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the European Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency). Ad hoc technical interactions also occur with organizations such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Group of Eight, the Global Health Security Action Group, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the International Maritime Organization, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization. WHO has worked with the latter two organizations to provide disease- and threat-specific technical guidance, and to ensure that awareness of the public

health impact of and requirements related to various relevant incidents is reflected in their training and exercise materials.

Activity: Liaison with Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

WHO submits reports annually to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on activities undertaken relevant to preventing the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors.

Activity: Liaison with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

WHO is a member of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and reports regularly on activities relevant to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which serves as a common platform, bringing the efforts of the United Nations system entities that work on counter-terrorism-related issues into a common, coherent and more focused framework.